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On this day in Duluth in 1906, [Mayor Marcus B. Cullum](#) declared that a public park along the Lake Superior Shore between 9th and 13th Avenues East had been secured. The previous year Cullum, got behind the idea for the park, put forth **by Louis Loeb**. It involved purchasing land from the Northern Pacific Railway, which wanted \$20,000. Other than **contributing \$10,000**, the park board did very little to help acquire the land. Instead, Mayor Cullum took the lead. In May 1905 he called together property owners and interested citizens to discuss ways to raise money for the project, which at that point was referred to by a variety of names including East End Park, Lakeside Park, Lake Front Park, and Lake Shore Park. A year later Cullum's campaign was still \$5,000 short. By August 1906 time was running out on the city's option to buy the land, and the mayor made a final strong push by sending out urgent appeals to many of the prominent property owners in Duluth's East End. The *News Tribune* editorial staff also continued to encourage the public: "Duluth has not today a foot of lake front park.... It will be exceedingly short-sighted and false economy if this park is not secured, and if this opportunity

Louis Loeb-Park  
Submitted by Karen Alpert Entous  
April 27, 2021

passes, the day will come when every citizen of Duluth will bitterly regret it.”. The park was first named Cullum Park in recognition of the mayor’s efforts. It was soon changed to Lake Shore Park and finally, in 1927, it became Leif Erikson Park. Read its entire history [here](#), and about the boat for which it is name [here](#).

[Loeb House – Zenith City Online](#)

# LOEB HOUSE



Louis S. & Cecelia Loeb House. (Image: Duluth Public Library)

**1123 East Superior Street | Architect: John J. Wangenstein | Built: 1900 |  
Lost: 2011**

This large Neo-Classical Revival-style house featured a two-story-high porch that spread across the full width of the house and was

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supported by six classical columns topped with Corinthian capitals; the house also featured a porte-cochere and a matching carriage house. Louis Loeb worked in the real estate industry and also operated a wholesale wine and liquor business; he also owned the Metropole Hotel and sat on the board of directors of Duluth's Northern National Bank. In 1921 the Loeb's moved to Lester Park; later, Loeb would donate some of his property for [Seven Bridges Road](#). After the Loeb's moved the house became the residence of Duluth's Roman Catholic bishop until 1941. It served as a boarding house until the 1980s when Silver's Dress Shop — which Ida Silver opened in her apartment in the late 1930s — took occupancy. Silver's closed in 2001 and the house was demolished in 2011 to make room for a parking lot for a Walgreen's store.

## METROPOLE HOTEL



The Metropole Hotel. (Image: Duluth Public Library)

[Metropole Hotel – Zenith City Online](#)

**101 – 105 South Lake Avenue | Architect: J. J. Wangenstein | Built: 1903 |  
Lost: 1973**

Located on the southwest corner of Lake Avenue and West Michigan Street, the Metropole Hotel served as a de facto “gateway” to what is known today as the Canal Park Business District. The brick building, built by Louis Loeb, stood three stories high with two round-corner towers facing Lake Avenue. When it

first opened under the direction of John Cargill and Joseph Kenny, the Metropole offered seventy-five guest rooms and a restaurant, barbershop, and tavern on the first floor, but its most popular tenant would be Joe Huie's Café. The Metropole attracted a certain type of clientele, and some of its early residents (and owners) had faced civil and criminal charges for gambling, the illegal sale of alcohol, theft, assaults, and even attempted murder. When the Metropole was closed as a hotel in 1972, it had more than fifty full-time residents. Then-owner Melvin Gallop said of his tenants, "None of the people that left here went with relatives and none left with friends; all their friends were right here at the Metropole." A portion of the building operated as a nightclub for a while; it was demolished in 1979 for the Lake Avenue realignment.